

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

NEA-07 H-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 /045 W
----- 062210

P R 200951Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9334
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4915

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, CVIS, RO
SUBJ: RABBI SCHINDLER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA, AUGUST 13-18

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER MEETING WITH STEFAN ANDREI, DEPPRIMIN PATAN AND ACTING FORMIN GLIGA PLUS VISITS TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN BUCHAREST AND MOLDAVIA, RABBI SCHINDLER DEPARTED ROMANIA AUGUST 18 TO MORAL QUANDARY AS TO HOW TO HANDLE HIS FORTHCOMING TESTIMONY ON MFN BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. HE LEFT CONVINCED THAT ROMANIA IS FREEST NATION IN EASTERN EUROPE IN RESPECT TO MEASURE OF FREEDON GRANTED JEWS IN PRACTICE OF THEIR RELIGION. AT SAME TIME HE IS PERSUADED THERE REMAINS SIGNIFICANT NUMBER (NEVER QUANTIFIED) OF JEWS WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE BUT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS ARE UNABLE TO DO SO. HIS DILEMMA IS HOW TO RECONCILE IN HIS TESTIMONY THIS LATTER FACT WITH HIS CONVICTION THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY ARE SERVED BY SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JEWRY OF PRESENT US POLICY VIS A VIS GOR. HE UNDERScoreD TO CHARGE THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE COMING MONTHS REGARDING JEWISH EMIGRATION HE WILL REMAIN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER AND PUBLIC ADMIRER OF US POLICY IN THIS COUNTRY. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE CLEAR CUT GOR CONCESSION TO RABBI SCHINDLER
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PATAN PROMISED TO ORDER PROMPT REVIEW OF STATUS OF

600 CASES REPORTEDLY NOW IN APPROVAL PROCESS AND OF
410 DENIAL CASES. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER COUNTLESS PHONE CALLS AND PRODS THE ROMANIANS
FINALLY CAME THROUGH WITH MEETINGS ON RABBI SCHINDLER'S
LAST DAY IN BUCHAREST WITH ANDREI, PATAN AND GLIGA.
FIRST HALF OF ANDREI MEETING WAS TOUGH GOING. HE
WARNED THAT ROMANIA WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY OUTSIDE
PRESSURE ON EMIGRATION PROBLEMS. NO ONE WOULD BE
COMPELLED TO LEAVE, BUT ON OTHER HAND GOR COMMITTED
TO RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN A HUMANITARIAN
SPIRIT. NO ONE SHOULD ATTEMPT LINKAGE OF ECONOMIC OR
TRADE MATTERS WITH JEWISH EMIGRATION. ROMANIA HAS
EXISTED FOR CENTURIES WITHOUT MFN AND WILL NOT TIE ITS
PROSPERITY TO ANY EFFORT TO LINK ECONOMIC RELATIONS
TO THE FUTURE OF JEWS IN ROMANIA. THIS IS AN INSULT
TO THE JEWS. GOR IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE DISSOLUTION
OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. ITS ROLE IN GOVERNMENT,
INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, AND SCIENCE IS MUCH TOO IMPORTANT.
ALL THIS SAID, ANDREI WISHED RABBI TO COMMUNICATE TO
USG THE GORS DETERMINATION NOT TO WAVER FROM ITS
POLICY CONCERNING SOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS.
THE POLICY REMAINS PRECISELY AS REAFFIRMED BY CEAUSESCU
LAST YEAR IN WASHINGTON.

3. THRUST OF RABBI'S REBUTTAL WAS THAT HIS INTEREST
IS HUMANITARIAN, NOT POLITICAL. HE ASSURED ANDREI
OF HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT AND THAT OF US JEWRY
IN BUILDING UP JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ROMANIA, BUT HE
WAS FIRM IN HIS DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING HUMANLY
POSSIBLE TO EASE THE WAY FOR DEPARTURE OF ANY HEW
WHO WISHED TO. COMBINATION OF HIS CHARM, LOGIC
AND WIT DEFANGED ANDREI AND MEETING BROKE UP AFTER
HOUR AND A QUARTER IN AN AURORA OF HIGH MUTUAL ESTEEM.

4. INTERESTING SIDE LIGHT TO CONVERSATION WAS ANDREI'S
WARNING ABOUT ANY FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN HUNGARIAN
"IRRIDENTISTS" AND EXTREMIST JEWISH GROUPS IN U.S.
RABBI SCHINDLER ACIDLY OBSERVED THERE COULD BE NO
AREA OF COMMON INTEREST BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS GIVEN
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FORMER'S ANTI-SEMITIC RECORD BEFORE AND DURING WWII.
HE ASSURED ANDREI NOT ONLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
COOPERATION BUT VOLUNTEERED THAT IF ASKED DURING THE
SENATE HEARINGS HE WOULD DENOUNCE THE OBJECTIVES OF
THE GROUP.

5. MEETING WITH PATAN WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY PERSONAL
APPEAL BY SCHINDLER FOR SOMETHING CONCRETE TO TAKE

BACK TO WASHINGTON. SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT 600 JEWISH PASSPORTS WERE IN PROCESS OF BEING APPROVED AND THAT 410 HAD BEEN DISAPPROVED. (FYI. RABBI ROSEN MET WITH DOICARU DAY OF SCHINDLER'S ARRIVAL AND WAS GIVEN THIS INFORMATION). HE ASKED PATAN TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO SPEED PROCESSING OF THE 600 APPROVALS AND REQUESTED A REVIEW OF THE 410 DENIALS ON GROUNDS THAT "ALL BUREAUCRACIES OCCASIONALLY MAKE ERRORS." PATAN READILY AGREED TO REQUEST. SAID THAT IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF PASSPORT AND VISA COMMISSION HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEW AND WOULD INFORM CHARGE IN NEXT 2-3 DAYS OF RESULTS.

6. NO UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT FROM GLIGA MEETING BEYOND FACT THAT GLIGA WAS OBVIOUSLY MUCH TAKEN BY RABBI SCHINDLER AND ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY HIS PROGAMATIC AND HUMANISTIC APPROACH TO THE JEWISH PROBLEM.

7. COMMENT: RABBI SCHINDLER EXPECTS TO RETURN TO BOSTON THIS WEEKEND AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE DEPASSTSEC ARMITAGE AND SHARE HIS IMPRESSIONS. HE ALSO WANTS TO DISCUSS TRIP WITH AMB BANRES BY PHONE. FROM CHARGE'S VANTAGE POINT HE IS SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE AMERICAN TO VISIT ROMANIA IN PAST TWO YEARS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS PROBLEM. ROMANIANS WERE TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE, HUMOR AND COMPASSION. ANDREI TOLD CHARGE LAST NIGHT HE WAS ONE OF MOST INTERESTING VISITORS HE HAD TALKED WITH IN A LONG TIME.

8. IN ESSENCE RABBI SCHINDLER'S CONCERNS ARE OUR
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CONCERNS. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THIS OBSERVER TO THINK OF ANYONE WHO WILL ARTICULATE THEM TO THE CONGRESS IN A MORE BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE MANNER. WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE, AS IS RABBI SCHINDLER AFTER THE FACT, FOR THE EFFORTS THE DEPARTMENT MADE TO GET HIM AND HELLMAN HERE.
VIETS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUCHAR04915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760319-0948
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760835/aaaabegh.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABBI SCHINDLER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA, AUGUST 13-18
TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, CVIS, RO, (SCHINDLER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006